

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF AUGUST 8th, 1928

The Board of Public Works met at the offices of the Board of Public Works, Baltimore, on August 8th, 1928.

Present:

Albert C. Ritchie, Governor.
William S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.
John M. Dennis, Treasurer.

The following letter from Mr. Samuel M. Shoemaker, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland was read:

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Office of the Board of Regents

August 2, 1928

Mr. J. O. McCusker,
Secretary of the Board of Public Works,
Office of the Comptroller,
Annapolis, Maryland.

My dear Mr. McCusker:

In accord with our conversation this morning, I am enclosing copy of a letter to President Pearson from State Forester Besley which explains itself. I understand the Advisory Board of Forestry has approved making this purchase, and I know it will meet with the approval of Dr. Pearson.

Since Mr. Besley is to meet the owner this coming week, I will be glad if you can find it convenient to get this purchase approved by the Board of Public Works.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,

Yours sincerely,

S. M. Shoemaker.

The letter from Mr. Besley, State Forester, to Dr. Pearson, President of the University of Maryland, dated July 31st, 1928, is as follows:

July 31, 1928

Dr. R. A. Pearson, President,
University of Maryland,
815 Fidelity Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Dr. Pearson:

You will recall, perhaps, that I spoke to you sometime ago about a tract of woodland of 7,500 acres which was sold to Mr. DeCourcy W. Thom about six months ago at a tax sale. Mr. Thom is very much interested in our state forest program and made this purchase on a suggestion emanating from this office, with the intention of giving the land to the State for a state forest. The limit of time for redemption has not yet expired, and we are hoping that it will not be redeemed.

There is another tract of land of 9,500 acres adjoining this tract that Mr. Thom has purchased, both on the headwaters of the Savage in Garrett County and eminently suited for state forests. We have accumulated in our Forest Reserve Fund in the past few years the sum of \$10,200 which we would like very much to invest in state forest land. With this idea in mind, I approached Mr. N. U. Bond, owner of this 9,500 acre tract, and while no commitments have been made, I am inclined to think that we can secure about 5,000 acres of the Bond land for our \$10,200. I am to meet Mr. Bond in Oakland the second week in August to confer on the matter, and I should like to feel able at that time to make a definite offer to Mr. Bond, in case we can secure as much as 5,000 acres of what is considered good forest land for \$10,200, with the privilege of acquiring the remainder of the tract of 4,500 acres at approximately the same rate when the money may be available.

In case we cannot make a satisfactory deal with Mr. Bond, I would like to be able to use our money in the purchase of another tract, provided we can get it for approximately \$2. per acre. The purchase of land that is fairly well-wooded at \$2. per acre in this section is such a splendid value that there could not possibly be any question as to the desirability of making the purchase, but I would like to have your approval of the course that is herein proposed.

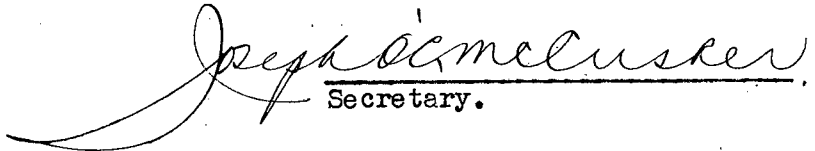
Very sincerely yours,

F. W. Besley,

State Forester.

After considering the matter the Board decided to approve the proposed purchase of approximately 5,000 acres of land for forestry purposes in accordance with the explanation contained in Mr. Besley's letter of July 31st.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.


Secretary.